

EDITORIAL

This number of the journal contains the reports from the Officers of the Association, together with the accounts, duly audited, and prepared for the Annual General Meeting scheduled for June 27th. They cannot really be regarded as official reports of the AGM, as there was a lamentable turn-out of about 1% of the total membership for this occasion, – an interesting symposium on Ethics in Sports Medicine, followed by the business meeting in which opportunities for reform of the Constitution were given, and new members of the Executive Committee were proposed for election. It was regretted, therefore, that the AGM could not take place on the date appointed for lack of a quorum, though more than the thirty required for a quorum were working and/or lunching in or near London West One at the time the meeting took place. An informal business meeting was held, reports were presented unofficially, and a discussion on the future legal status of the Association was led by Mr. Colin Kitching, of Messrs. Dawson and Company, Solicitors, of Lincoln's Inn. An ad hoc subcommittee of BASM has been set up to consider amendments or the redrafting of our constitution, to consider its tax liabilities, and to streamline the day-to-day administration of the Association. Professor David Taylor is Convenor, and besides Mr. Kitching, the Hon. Secretary, the Hon. Treasurer and Mr. David Chapman, who acts as assistant to the Hon. Secretary form the members. Suggestions from members on any revisions to be considered should be sent to the Secretary or to Prof. Taylor. According to the existing Constitution, the AGM was adjourned for one week, and those present at that time constituted a quorum and approved the reports and accounts.

To try to avoid a similar debacle next year, it has been decided to hold a joint meeting lasting a full weekend, together with the Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Sports Medicine. A joint conference committee will organise the scientific programme, social events, business meetings for both organisations, and the necessary administration for a residential conference. Details will be announced later, but members of BASM are now advised that the 1980 AGM WILL BE HELD AT LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY DURING THE WEEKEND OF JULY 6th–8th. The cost is not yet known, but should not exceed £35 for the weekend, including a formal Dinner.

In this number, we have introduced a Diary of Sports Medicine events, both for BASM and for other organisations, to give as long notice as we can. Any quarterly must receive plenty of notice for printing announcements of meetings etc., and it is best if six months notice be given to ensure that the announcement can be set up, proofs corrected, printed and circulated and still give time for those wishing to attend to make arrangements, book, and perhaps seek financial support. We shall do our best to encourage organisers of events, especially overseas ones, to send us even outline advance details in plenty of time, so we do not have to depend upon reading a notice in "GP" late in July about a jogging event at the Crystal Palace on Sept. 8th, probably before this issue is circulated. Even if we only know the place, the date, the approximate cost, and the name and address of the organiser, we can give advance notice. Another "Doctors' Run" just noticed in the BMJ of July 28th will be held again at Birmingham University on Saturday, September 22nd. Applications to Dr. D. A. Heath, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, BIRMINGHAM B15 2TH (Phone 021-472-1311).

We have had two requests from the Sports Council to advertise activities. Once again, undergraduates are invited to submit dissertations for the Sports Dissertation of the Year Award (details later in this journal), and for help in the compilation of an international register of current research in sport, including sports medicine and exercise physiology. This invitation is given in our Correspondence section. Once again, notice is short, but we have only received notification after most of the Journal has been put together.

The original articles again come from all over the world. Athletes' leg pains, an ever-present problem for doctors and others caring for runners, are discussed by Orava and Puranen from Finland; fitness assessment in Indian athletes (Verma et al from Patiala), and in English League football players, by Thomas and Reilly of Liverpool; effects of exercise on personality by Young (USA); experiments in sweat analysis from a French team led by one of our overseas members, Dr. P. Pilardeau; echocardiography in Irish swimmers by Cahill and O'Brien; Colles' fracture in a weight-lifter, by P. H. Rowe, a Senior House Officer in the UK; a letter from a Brazilian physical educationist making an appeal for the prolongation of an athlete's active life. We would still, however, like to see more case reports, and more clinical discussions to get a better balance of interest in each edition.

Another question that often crops up is whether the Association, the Medical and related professions are doing enough to promote health through exercise as part of any national HEALTH programme, as opposed to the salvage operation of treating those whose health has broken down. In "Challenge" Dr. C. C. Lutton raises several interesting points, already aired in Scotland, but needing much more extensive consideration, even if there are points for disagreement. The enthusiasm and competence of the Edinburgh team in setting up, staffing and running the

Meadowbank Sports Medicine Centre, more than an injury clinic, sets an example to most regions in the U.K., and their views are based upon knowledge and experience.

In H.M. The Queen's Birthday Honours, we were pleased to see the award of the OBE to Dr. N. R. Jefferson, of Invercargill, New Zealand. He joined BASM in 1954 as the official representative of the New Zealand AAA, and became an Ordinary Member in 1971. He and his wife showed much kindness and hospitality to the small UK delegation during the 1974 World Congress of Sports Medicine in Melbourne, and helped his colleagues from the Antipodes to accept "bloody Pommies" with friendship.

We also note the appointment of Dr. Brian B. Lloyd to the Chairmanship of the Health Education Council with pleasure. He gave us a great deal of help in the organisation of the 1970 World Congress at Oxford, providing a meeting place for the preliminary committee discussions, and acting as a valuable liaison member for our dealings with the administrative and academic staff of the University. He is well known to physiologists and physical educationists as the inventor of a simplified oxygen and carbon dioxide analyser based on the Haldane model, and has more recently been Director of the Oxford Polytechnic.

A report in "Doctor" of July 19th announces that BUPA have offered to screen the British Olympic team before the 1980 Games in Moscow; 600 "Possibles" in January, and those selected finally will be seen again in June. Private medical insurance has been provided for those injured or requiring hospital treatment, and the results of the screening will be sent to the BOA's medical adviser. This screening will not be compulsory, but it is hoped that all contenders will be screened somewhere, and any rectifiable condition will be treated.

The last number of this journal, Vol. 13 No. 2, was prepared in rather a hurry so as to be available before the AGM. There were several errors which we regret, as postal disruptions prevented proof corrections by authors. We apologise for some typographical mistakes in the Secretary's Column, and for failing to attribute the origin of "Sport for all = injuries for all", first used in print by Dr. Peter Sperryn, I understand, but used subsequently by several of us as an introduction to lectures. A reduplicated figure was inserted into the article by Reilly, Hopkins and Howlett instead of the graph produced below on page 97.

Advance plans are being made for the 1980 Sports Medicine Course, which will again be held at Loughborough University, for a week starting on April 13th. The increase in VAT means an inevitable increase in the fees, which we anticipate will be £110, but still less than most post-graduate resident medical courses. We will again apply for Section 63 approval for general practitioners, but must take into account recent cuts in public expenditure. The general outline of the course will follow that of the last two years, and approaches to employing authorities should be made as soon as possible if financial help is being sought. It is anticipated that application forms and further details will be available late in January, but we are already receiving preliminary bookings.

The idea of an Irish area, BASM, has been received quite well on both sides of the border, but the long-drawn-out Irish postal strike has prevented any real progress being made. Dr. Moira O'Brien, of the Anatomy Dept., Royal College of Surgeons, Dublin, would like to hear from anyone interested, and if a suitable channel of communication can be found. Her home telephone number is Dublin (0001)-985855. Application forms for BASM membership may also be obtained from Mr. D. A. Hill, BSc, MCSP, Faculty of Health Science, Ulster Polytechnic, NEWTOWNABBEY, Co. Antrim.

It is anticipated that the December number of this journal will contain the Proceedings of the symposium on Ethics in Sports Medicine, as well as several articles already being returned from referees, but more clinical case reports would be appreciated.

H. E. Robson